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The Highlander

Thursday December 5 2024 | Issue 669

INSIDE: VIRTUAL CANCER RETREATS AT BROOKSONG PG 19

FREE



The music man

Andy Salvatori rocks out on the trumpet as County band Ragged Company played the Highlands Christmas Shindig at the Haliburton Legion Dec. 1. For more photos see page 17.
Photo by Justin Belanger.

McKelvey found in breach of Municipal Act

By Lisa Gervais

Integrity commissioner, Tony Fleming, has ruled that Minden Hills coun. Tammy McKelvey has breached two sections of the Municipal Act's code of conduct.

However, McKelvey told council Nov. 28, "she felt she had not violated the code of conduct." Council went on to accept the

report as information only, not endorsing Fleming's recommendations council reprimand McKelvey to reinforce the proper role of council, and to ensure the breach is not repeated.

The integrity commissioner's report – tabled at last Thursday's meeting – said Fleming received a complaint May 22,

alleging McKelvey improperly directed staff.

He said the incident happened May 21, when, "[McKelvey] wrote to staff to report a development that she believed was illegal (after being advised by residents of the problem). [McKelvey] took pictures of the property and submitted her findings to staff."

Fleming said he determined McKelvey

sent an email to staff after she'd driven onto private property along a newly-built road to take a picture of the alleged illegal development. However, he said McKelvey did not request or demand action from staff in the email, and investigators had no evidence she provided verbal prompts.

Continued 'Minden' on page 2

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Minden council dismisses integrity commissioner's recommendations

Continued from page 1

However, he said council members have clearly defined roles under the Municipal Act.

“Council and councillors have a policy-setting role and not an administrative or operational role. Attending a site and taking pictures of an alleged illegal activity is not the proper role for a member of council. This is purely a staff function, and no member of council should cross this line. It is appropriate for council members to pass complaints along to staff, but they should never engage in any aspect of an investigation,” Fleming said.

He ruled McKelvey breached sections 4.2 and 7.3 of the code, as “clearly the councillor was more than encouraging staff to enforce in this instance given her direct role.”

Fleming said McKelvey told him, “she was not participating in an enforcement matter – she was simply helping staff understand the complaint.” However, Fleming said, “we do not accept this response. There was clearly a perception of the public and [McKelvey] that the development in question was illegal. There is no other reason to attend the site and take pictures other than to demonstrate to staff that the activity was occurring – illegal activity. Enforcement actions always start with an initial site visit and then an assessment of next steps. The actions of [McKelvey] were part of enforcement; the problem is that [McKelvey] was not the person authorized to take those steps.”

Fleming added it was an opportunity to explain to council the practical implications when they “stray into operational duties of staff... This is not a finding of the investigation, but it is an opportune time to reinforce with all of council the general concerns associated with not respecting

the limits of their role.”

He said staff administer policies and bylaws set by council. When councillors interfere, even if well-intentioned, staff can feel undermined, that their work is not respected, or they’re seen to be unqualified. He said it can impact staff morale and keeping, or recruiting staff.

He went on to say, while staff can investigate, any ‘evidence’ gathered by a councillor is not admissible in court, and the fact a councillor was on-site early in the process, without legal authority, might be a reason to refuse to admit other evidence, even if gathered legally, afterwards.

“This obviously has serious repercussions for the township and underscores why councillors must respect their roles.”

Councillors weigh in

At the meeting, mayor Bob Carter said it was “essential to acknowledge the importance of the report and follow proper procedures to address the report before council and public.” He said they had sought legal advice.

McKelvey said, “I feel that I have not violated the code of conduct. I did what any other member of council has been asked to do... and investigate a complaint that came in... and I sent that information off to staff...”

Coun. Bob Sisson said, “I think we’re all guilty of this sooner or later. I’ve had people call me and I pass it on. I think it’s blown way out of proportion myself.”

Coun. Ivan Ingram said, “I have no intention of agreeing with the recommendation.”

Carter, deputy mayor Lisa Schell and councillors Pam Sayne and Shirley Johannessen did not publicly comment on the recommendations. Council accepted the report for information only.

Coun. Tammy McKelvey said she was helping staff understand a complaint. *File.*



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New police board meets for first time

By Mike Baker

Calls for service to the Haliburton Highlands OPP have dropped about seven per cent this year, though interim detachment commander, Mike Cavanagh, said there's been a 15.7 per cent increase to the number of Criminal Code and Provincial Statute charges laid locally.

Addressing the inaugural meeting of the new Haliburton Highlands OPP detachment board Nov. 29, Cavanagh said statistics had dropped for violent and property-related crimes in 2024, with increases seen in Highway Traffic Act violations and drug enforcement.

The detachment has processed 3,279 complaints from Jan. 1 to Nov. 30 – down from 3,522 last year – with 139 violent crimes leading to charges, down from 178, and 318 property crime violations, down from 343.

Cavanagh said there has been one murder, 15 sexual offences, 63 assaults and firearms-related offences, and 19 cases of criminal harassment this year. For property crime, he reported 40 break and enters, 29 thefts over \$5,000, 106 thefts under \$5,000, 85 cases of fraud, and 53 cases of mischief and minor property damage.

Speeding has become a serious concern for police, with a 53.7 per cent increase to the number of tickets issued in 2023, Cavanagh said, up to 976 from 635 in 2023. The detachment issued 47 impaired driving charges, down from 70 last year, 17 seatbelt-related charges, and two distracted driving tickets.

Drug crime is up 300 per cent, Cavanagh said, with 16 charges compared to four last year. Eight of the charges were for possession of an illegal substance, with seven intent to traffic charges.

"The way drug trafficking works in this community, this is more of a consumption site. Drugs come in across the border, land in places like Ottawa and Toronto. The drugs get divided up and sold to other communities," Cavanagh said. "Investigations involve a great number of hands to do – it's not as simple as a traffic stop. We need court orders... to know when drugs and dealers are arriving... it's a lot of work."

He said fentanyl and methamphetamine are the two most common drugs distributed locally.

"The opioid epidemic is migrating everywhere in the province. We're not immune to it," Cavanagh said. "Being a little more remote, we won't see real bad drug addicts stick around long because the supply isn't as high as in big cities. If we pick up a dealer here, people lose access and so they'll go to where the drugs are."

"We may see a consistent problem here, but with decreased supply people will migrate where they can get the drugs," he added.

Board member Walt McKechnie said he felt the courts are too lenient when it comes to drugs, saying he believes every dealer caught selling dangerous substances should be charged with attempted murder. Chair, Andrew Fletcher, said the board can advocate

for stricter legislation.

Cavanagh noted the detachment's clearance rate, or percentage of crimes solved, is 74.1 per cent for violent, 18.2 per cent for property, 81.3 per cent for drugs, 82.6 per cent for driving offences, and 69 per cent for all other cases.

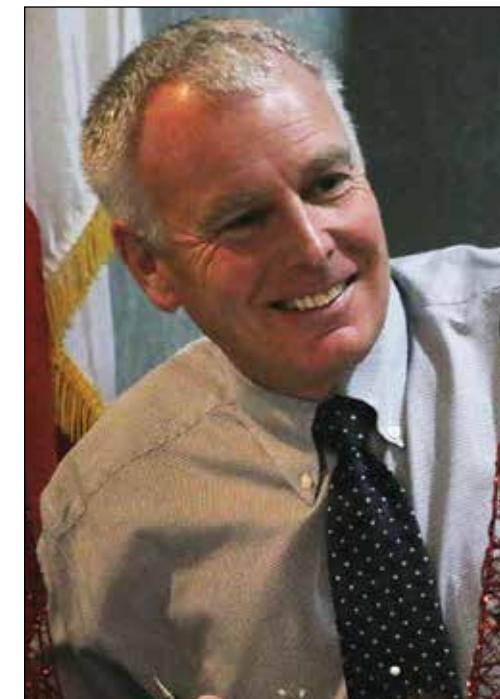
Officers spent 5,918 hours patrolling the community in cruisers, 180 marine hours on the water, 27 hours patrolling off-road – important, Cavanagh noted, with three ATV vehicle deaths in the area last year, the most in Ontario – and 197 hours on foot patrol.

"Part of our goal is to increase community service. I've only been here three months, but our officers are really taking more of a community-driven approach. We saw a positive response when we did Take Back the Night and the Remembrance Day service in Minden, so we want to do more," Cavanagh said.

Board make up

The new board is comprised of seven members – four council representatives, two public appointees, and a provincial nominee. Algonquin Highlands mayor Liz Danielsen, Highlands East mayor Dave Burton and Minden Hills mayor Bob Carter are on it, so too Dysart deputy mayor McKechnie, with Fletcher and Andy Chvedukas public appointees, and Andrew Hodgson the provincial rep.

Board terms are typically four years – with turnover coming six months after municipal elections.



Andrew Fletcher will serve as the inaugural chair of the Haliburton Highlands OPP detachment board. *File.*

Meetings will run every other month, with a summer break. There are five proposed next year. It was decided members would be permitted to attend virtually if they can't make it in-person. Meetings will run in the afternoon, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Live streaming may be a possibility, though the board wants to see what costs are involved before committing.

Ontario government announces rural police relief

By Mike Baker

The Ontario government has announced \$77 million in relief funding for rural municipalities feeling the pinch with escalating policing costs.

Solicitor general Michael Kerzner said the investment will help smaller communities address shortfalls in its Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) budget. Costs are up across the board, Kerzner noted in a Nov. 29 release, due to a new contract signed by the

province and the Ontario Provincial Police Association in July.

"Our government is working closely with municipal partners and our women and men in uniform to keep communities across Ontario safe," Kerzner said. "The financial relief [proposed] will help municipal leaders balance their budgets and invest in their communities while ensuring no change to the policing provided by the OPP that keeps families and businesses safe."

The plan includes a 3.75 per cent bill reduction on 2023 total reconciled costs, a 44 per cent reduction on 2023 reconciled overtime costs, and a 10 per cent reduction on amounts invoiced for 2025 policing costs.

In addition to these changes, the provincial government is continuing its annual \$125 million court security and prisoner transportation transfer payment program for 2025.

It's welcome news for townships in the County – in October, Algonquin Highlands mayor Liz Danielsen expressed concern after learning police costs in the municipality were increasing \$210,000 next year – a 21 per cent jump. At that meeting, treasurer, Jean Hughes, said rates were up between 16 and 30 per cent across Ontario.

The OPP provides municipal policing services to 330 municipalities across Ontario.



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Mail workers say strike 'hard on all of us'

By Mike Baker

With negotiations between Canada Post and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) picking up again this week, County-based mail men and women say they're hopeful of getting back to work soon, with holiday season in full swing.

It's been 21 days since more than 55,000 postal workers nationwide walked off the job, shutting down the country's postal system. Employees have been without a contract since Dec. 31, 2023.

After talks between the two parties broke down Nov. 26, Canada Post spokesperson Phil Legault said the union was presented with "a comprehensive framework for reaching negotiated agreements" on Dec. 1.

"This includes proposals to bring greater flexibility to the corporation's delivery model, while also demonstrating movement on other key issues," Legault said. "It is our hope these proposals will reignite discussions and, together with the support of mediators, help the parties work toward final agreements."

No further details have been shared, though Doug Ford, president of CUPW local 564 covering Haliburton County, indicated the offer doesn't go far enough.

"The union shared the framework isn't really touching on the key issues we're far apart on," Ford said.

Last month, the Crown corporation offered an 11.5 per cent wage increase over the next four years, while also including protections for defined benefit and pension plans for current employees.

Nine workers who deliver in Haliburton, Minden, Bracebridge, Kinmount, and Sunderland were in front of the Minden post office Nov. 28 talking to people about why they're striking.

"It's very hard on all of us – it's getting colder out, Christmas is coming. None of us really wants to be here. We don't understand why we have to keep fighting. We've been doing our jobs," said Dolly, who works in the County.

"It's mentally draining being here," added Laura, another local worker. "Nobody gains from a strike. I think the thing we're finding hardest to accept is the fact the CEO and executives are sitting up there telling us what to do, telling us about all the money the company is losing... well, they're making way more than we do."

Canada Post reported losses of \$315 million for the third quarter of 2024, and \$3 billion since 2018.



Striking postal workers from Haliburton County, Kinmount, Bracebridge and Sunderland protesting in Minden Nov. 28. Photo by Mike Baker.

Dolly said she's worried about her pension and benefits but noted she's also fighting for worker equity.

"I want to make sure we're all equally paid – we do the same job, yet we have rural routers being paid differently from urban. We should be equal all the way and we've been fighting for this for years," Dolly said.

Ford noted in an earlier interview that all previous Canada Post offers had included a clause that would create a two-tiered pay scale, with new workers starting at a reduced wage.

With the company looking to transition to a

seven-day work week, saying that's needed to compete with Amazon, Dolly said most workers don't have a problem with that.

"We're willing to work with that – we just want to see a plan, to make sure everything is done properly. Until then, we're strong," Dolly said. "CUPW is the union that brought maternity leave to Canada, so if we can do that, we can do other things too."

Laura added, "this isn't just about us. This is for the people coming through who will take our spots. We need to keep jobs secure for the younger generations, because there aren't many left anymore."

School board suspends more than 1,100 students

By Lisa Gervais

The Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) says it issued 1,888 suspensions board wide in 2023-2024, to 1,101 students. Of those, 971 were high schoolers, and 917 elementary students. There were 13 expulsions.

The board does not break down the figures by County, so it is not known how many there were at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, or the five elementary schools.

TLDSB releases the numbers at a board meeting each year, and did so at their

Nov. 26 gathering. Staff also provided an overview of mental health services, and supervised alternative learning (SAL) data.

Schools adhere to the provincial code of conduct and school boards' code of conduct, as well as the board's code of conduct procedure.

"When inappropriate student behaviour occurs, school administration investigates the incident and determines the most appropriate way to respond. In some circumstances, short-term suspension is a useful tool. With serious infractions and incidents, long-term suspension or expulsion may be the response that is

required," staff said.

They added their ethos is one of correction and support. The program for suspended and expelled students includes an action plan designed to help with both academic and non-academic goals.

TLDSB's SAL program provides opportunities for students to re-engage in their education after periods of absence, and allows them to access both academic and non-academic support. Forty-six students were admitted to SAL, and 127 to REAL SAL.

When it comes to mental health services, staff said there were 1,208 referrals made

to mental health counsellors, with the top reasons being anxiety, family dynamics and self-regulation. Some 235 students who'd missed school 15 or more days in a row were referred to reengagement counsellors. And 63 students presented with suicide ideation.

The board prioritized mental health and well-being in its 2022-2027 strategic plan. The board employs 13 regulated counsellors, with a focus on mental health promotion, prevention and early intervention. They also refer to community-based agencies.

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COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted.

The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

- December 13 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link on the Township CivicWeb Portal.

WINTER PARKING

From Nov 1st to Apr 30th overnight parking is illegal from midnight to 8:00 AM on township roadways and parking lots. Parking in the turning circle of a cul-de-sac is prohibited during all hours. Vehicles parked in areas that interfere with snow removal will be towed away and/or ticketed at the owner's expense.

SAFE WINTER DRIVING

Drive according to weather conditions - posted speed limits are usually too fast. Adjust your speed and give yourself extra travel time. Be visible! Low-beam headlights are brighter than daytime running lights and they will turn on your taillights.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Please be advised that tax and water/wastewater accounts will still need to be paid during a postal strike. Available payment methods include in-person cash and debit, online or telephone banking, and payment from your financial institution. Please visit our website for more details.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Minden Hills Fire Association presents the 3rd Annual Christmas Food and Toy Drive. Visit Minden Hills Firefighters at Canadian Tire from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm on December 8th where they will be collecting donations. Fire trucks will be driving around downtown streets collecting donations from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

• Beginning on Thursday, December 5 the Agnes Jamieson Gallery will be displaying a selection of artwork from our permanent collection, featuring André Lapine (1866-1952) as well as new acquisitions. The Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm. Admission is by donation. We will be closed December 23 to January 1, 2025 for the holidays.

• The MHCC and the HCPL - Minden Branch are offering a free screening on December 5 at 1 pm of *Malartic* (2024), a documentary by filmmaker Nicolas Paquet. Admission is free. No pre-registration is required.

• The UFO Craft Group will be meeting on December on Friday, December 6 and 20 from 1 pm to 3 pm in the Welch Room.

For more information on all the programs and exhibits email culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.



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COUNTY OF HALIBURTON NEWS

Warden's race

Two councillors will vie to replace Liz Daniels as warden of Haliburton County.

A Nov. 27 staff report said Highlands East mayor Dave Burton and Minden Hills mayor Bob Carter have been nominated.

Deputy clerk Michele Moore said an election will be required at the special meeting of County council on Dec. 10 at 4 p.m.

The warden, as the head of County council, is elected annually from amongst members at a special meeting of council every December. Daniels held the job for six consecutive terms.

Those wanting to be deputy warden have to identify themselves Dec. 11 at council's regular meeting.

Long-term service awards

The County honoured five long-term employees last week.

GIS technologist Joanne O'Keefe was thanked for 15 years of service. Daniels commented on O'Keefe's "technical expertise, friendly personality and famous baked goods," which had "made her a valued team member."

Director of public works, Sylvain Cloutier, also marked 15 years. Daniels said he was "dedicated to the County and willingly takes on all challenges. He doesn't shy away from difficult situations and maintains a sense of humour while doing so."

Other award winners were: Aaron Turner, for 20 years as a paramedic; Kenny Beers, for 35 years, and Larry Smith, for 25 years, as seasonal 1 operator/labourer.

Communication on blue-green algae

Following a presentation from Dr. Natalie Bocking, of the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge DHU, coun. Bob Carter asked that the health unit lift its game in notifying Highlands' residents about blue-green algae blooms.

Carter told Bocking it appeared there have been more blooms in recent years, possibly due to climate change, and the County has a lot of lakes.

"Many people are looking for the health unit to take a more proactive approach to alerting people once one of these blooms has been recognized," he said, noting many people take their water from lakes, but most normal treatment systems cannot eradicate blue green algae. "It's something we think should be in the health unit's purview, get the word out when there is a problem."

Bocking said they largely rely on the Ministry of Environment for communicating blooms but she would flag the issue for the health unit's environmental health managers, in conjunction with partners. "We can revisit what we have in place to make sure it is meeting the needs of residents." (*County of Haliburton news compiled by Lisa Gervais*).



Liz Daniels is ending six years as County warden. *File*.



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County of Haliburton Notice Election of County Warden

The Council of the County of Haliburton wishes to provide PUBLIC NOTICE that the 2025 Warden's Election will take place on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 commencing at 4:00 p.m. in the County Administration Building located at 11 Newcastle Street in Minden. The public is welcome to attend.

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Minden council dusts off budget shoes

By Lisa Gervais

Minden Hills taxpayers got their first look at the township's 2025 budget Nov. 21 – with a starting point of an estimated 8.7 per cent levy increase.

That will not be the final number when council is expected to endorse the completed document early next year.

Director of finance and treasurer, Wendelin Lonergan, said, "staff has really done a dive and we are still working at diving deeper to make sure everything is refined." She said the staff goal is a "reasonable" increase.

Lonergan said there were a number of external pressures. They include increased OPP billing, which could raise taxes three per cent in the township. Wages will create a crunch, with the township finally having a full complement of staff, and wages up four per cent, and benefits nearly 11 per cent. It looks like there will be no Provincial Offences Act revenue and insurance costs are up six per cent.

The treasurer said there's pressures on everything the township does, without considering the cost-of-living allowance and inflation.

Minden Hills is working on a new asset management plan that will pinpoint deficiencies in fleet, building and equipment. They hope to offset with bulk purchasing and reviewing whether projects remain important, or if the focus has shifted.

CAO Cynthia Fletcher said there were

still some unknowns to be brought back in January.

She commented, "we made some headway in 2024 on stabilizing our workforce, and starting to focus on streamlining and modernizing some of our customer service processes. We made infrastructure improvements and we started putting a lot of focus on engaging our community."

She said success stories included the Village Green restorations, accessible public washrooms in the downtown, moving waste management and waste diversion in-house, significant infrastructure investments, and several community events.

"In 2025, we will continue modernizing and streamlining more customer service processes, focus on community engagement, more infrastructure improvements, and turn our minds to long-term financial planning as well."

The township is so far looking at a two per cent increase for water, and three per cent for wastewater.

Mayor Bob Carter noted taxpayers pay to the school board, township and Haliburton County.

During the public meeting portion of the agenda, former coun. Jean Neville spoke to the Lochlin Community Centre. She sits on a committee for the hall, which has been left dormant since COVID, "which is a critical length of time for any building, let alone one of this vintage," she said.

"We urge this council to dedicate funds



Former Coun. Jean Neville wants movement on the Lochlin Community Hall.
Photo by Lisa Gervais.

to at least start this restoration in the 2025 calendar year... with help from willing tradespeople... maybe saving the old structure is the best way to go," she said.

Speaking to the 8.7 per cent increase as of Nov. 21, Coun. Pam Sayne said she was

pleased there are going to be local municipal delegations to the Minister of Finance at upcoming conferences.

"We cannot continue with these kinds of increases on a regressive property tax... this has to stop somewhere."

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AH looks at backyard camping

By Mike Baker

Algonquin Highlands council is considering a zoning bylaw change that could pave the way for people to legally camp on private residential property within the township.

Coun. Sabrina Richards said she was shocked to learn recently that residents are not permitted to camp on their property at any time during the year. Municipal planner Sean O'Callaghan confirmed Nov. 21 that people can only camp on established campgrounds, Crown land, or on their property temporarily while building or renovating a home – with a permit required.

"You cannot camp on developed or vacant residential property. Enforcing that is, admittedly, an issue. If it's occurring over a weekend, then it's not likely to be enforced. If it's an ongoing activity... that's where [we'd intervene]," O'Callaghan said.

Mayor Liz Danielsen said she was "gobsmacked" by the revelation.

"The idea that your kids can't pitch a tent in their own backyard, that's nuts," the mayor said.

O'Callaghan noted most municipalities prohibit camping on residential property. In his report to council, he stated camping is a temporary activity that is best directed to areas where the use is ordinarily expected and can be adequately serviced.

Not intended to target kids looking to spend a night underneath the stars, O'Callaghan noted the bylaw is designed to prevent people from establishing tents and trailers as permanent living spaces. He also expressed concern over some campers not having access to washroom facilities.

The planner said he was most worried about people camping on vacant land.

"On the subject of housing, we're trying to encourage activity, but I'm picturing a vacant lot where someone buys it with the intent of camping on it a couple weeks per year. That becomes a lot that's never going to have a house on it, at least in the near term. It's essentially a lot you're taking out of the bank of available developable lots in the township," O'Callaghan said. "It's not promoting development in the community."

Deputy mayor Jennifer Dailloux and coun.



Coun. Lisa Barry believes if someone owns a residential property in the township they should be allowed to camp outside. *File.*

Lisa Barry both took issue with the rules.

"I think of how young families might save to buy a little piece of vacant land, but they'll have to save another 50 years before they can build on it. In the meantime, they want to enjoy that space, pitch a tent, take their kids and remind them what it feels like to be in nature and develop that relationship with the environment," Dailloux said, noting she doesn't see a problem with that.

Barry added, "I think if you [want to camp] on a piece of property you're paying taxes on annually you should be able to. A lot of families can't afford to go on vacations or rent Airbnbs. Our motto is 'this is where nature begins'. I would like to see some support for how people who have property can enjoy it before having to wait until there's a residence on it."

O'Callaghan said North Frontenac, French River, and Lake of Bays all have bylaws that allow camping on certain developed properties, limiting people to 14 or 21 days outdoors. The planner said he'd like to see a cap put on the number of consecutive days people can camp.

CAO Angie Bird suggested council

differentiate between camping in a tent and in a trailer, noting trailers have washroom facilities to ensure the proper disposal of waste. She also recommended against allowing people to camp on waterfront properties.

"There are no washroom facilities on the shoreline," Bird said, indicating human waste could end up in the water.

Danielsen suggested implementing a permit system for people who want to camp on vacant property. She also said she'd have a hard time displacing anyone living in a trailer, whether it contravenes the bylaw or not.

"We know we have a serious housing shortage – if you see a trailer that's not supposed to be on a property, you know someone is living there. Often, they've got nowhere else to go. I struggle with that. I'm not sure how we deal with that," the mayor said.

Council directed O'Callaghan to bring back bylaw revisions that would allow people to legally camp on private property. Once ideas have been brought forward, the public will be consulted on next steps, Danielsen said.

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Township finds license of occupation fix

By Mike Baker

Algonquin Highlands has partnered with insurance firm Marsh Canada Ltd. to offer residents a first-of-its-kind solution to protections required through the township's license of occupation policy.

Speaking at a Nov. 21 meeting, planner Sean O'Callaghan said the municipality and Marsh have developed a custom insurance policy covering taxpayers should an accident occur on a licensed deck or other form of infrastructure abutting a lake.

New legislation requiring residents who own property across a municipal road from a waterbody, which has a dock or other infrastructure installed on nearby township

land, to register it has been in place since Jan. 1 of this year. O'Callaghan said the policy protects the township from liability and will help staff maintain records.

The planner said he'd heard from residents who were having trouble obtaining high enough insurance policies – the township requires a minimum \$2 million coverage – requiring a solution.

There are two options – a \$2 million premium, costing \$350 plus tax each year, or a \$5 million premium, which runs \$500 plus tax. He asked if council wanted to make it a requirement that residents take out a policy with the municipal provider, but mayor Liz Danielsen felt people should have a choice.

"For people unable to find an insurer... or if this is a cheaper option than they're being offered, this gives them a choice," she said.

Deputy clerk Sarah Hutson recommended the township change its policy to require a minimum \$5 million premium – saying if a claim is made and the payout exceeds \$2 million, the license owner may be responsible for covering the difference. She said depending on the statement of claim, the township could be impacted too.

Council held firm at \$2 million, while also offering a \$5 million option. O'Callaghan estimates about 350 properties will require license of occupation policies.

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CHAMBER of COMMERCE

TheHighlander

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To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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Slippery slope

We take exception to Minden Hills council's decision to not reprimand Coun. Tammy McKelvey after the integrity commissioner ruled she'd breached the Municipal Act's code of conduct.

As reported in today's *Highlander*, on May 21, McKelvey drove onto private property, along a newly-built road, to take a picture of an alleged illegal development.

Let's start there. She drove on private property. She could have been charged with trespassing under the Trespass to Property Act.

I understand McKelvey's motives. She was contacted by constituents who were concerned about the development. But she should have passed the complaints to staff. Instead, she went to investigate. In the past, councillors had much more freedom to do this sort of thing. However, the Municipal Act is very clear about this. As the integrity commissioner noted, council and councillors have a policy-setting role, not an administrative or operational role. He said going to a site and taking pictures is not the proper role for a member of council. Staff should be doing this. The integrity commissioner felt the councillor was encouraging staff to enforce in the instance.

McKelvey told council and the public at last week's meeting she felt she had not violated the code of conduct; but had done what any other member of council has been asked to do - investigate a complaint and then send

information to staff. Some of her council colleagues, and many of her constituents, would say she did the right thing.

However, the integrity commissioner, a lawyer hired by all townships to ensure they do not breach code of conducts – an expert in the field – did not accept the response.

He said there was no other reason to attend the site and take pictures other than to demonstrate to staff that the activity was occurring. Enforcement actions always start with an initial site visit and then an assessment of next steps. He said McKelvey became part of the enforcement, though not authorized to do so.

All councillors were asked to comment on recommendations. Coun. Bob Sisson said he thought all councillors were guilty of similar actions sooner or later. He's had people call him and passed the information on. He believes the whole thing was blown out of proportion. Coun. Ivan Ingram had no intention of agreeing with recommendations.

Mayor Bob Carter, deputy mayor Lisa Schell, and councillors Shirley Johannessen and Pam Sayne did not publicly comment on the recommendations.

By not accepting the integrity commissioner's suggestions, council has basically dismissed the opinions of its expert, highly-paid, integrity commissioner, and sent a message that councillors can drive onto private property to gather evidence for staff.

We wonder how this makes staff feel? Is

there a perception they are not up to the job?

Further, the integrity commissioner said in his report such behaviour may make it more difficult to prosecute and could result in an order of the court that evidence be suppressed because the municipality gathered evidence without legal authority.

Under legislation, staff have the right to inspect properties in certain circumstances and that evidence is admissible in court. Council members have no authority to engage in operational matters. Any 'evidence' gathered by a councillor is not admissible, and the fact that a councillor was on-site early in the process without legal authority might be a reason to refuse to admit other evidence, even if it was gathered legally afterwards. This obviously has serious repercussions for the township and underscores why councillors must respect their roles, the integrity commissioner said.

Our concern: a councillor going on private property to take photos and thinking she did nothing wrong; a council ignoring the findings of its expert integrity commissioner; and the message it sends to the public.



By Lisa Gervais

MIND BODY MATTERS

Slow the holiday hustle with yoga

The holiday season is here, and while it's joyful, it can also bring stress, travel, and a packed schedule. But don't worry, holiday warriors - yoga can help you stay calm through the chaos. Here are some easy tips to de-stress the season.

1. Practice daily gratitude

Tip: Start or end your day by reflecting on what you're grateful for - whether it's family, health, or just a peaceful moment (like no one calling you during savasana).

Why it helps: Gratitude shifts your focus from stress to appreciation, helping you feel grounded and calm.

2. Make time to reset.

Tip: After a busy day of running errands or holiday stress, try restorative poses like Legs-Up-the-Wall. If you're already on the couch, throw your legs up the back of it for a quick reset.

Why it helps: Restorative poses calm your nervous system, promoting relaxation - perfect for unwinding after the holiday rush.

3. How you breath matters

Tip: We've all held our breath when Aunt Carol asks about your love life. To avoid turning into a human pressure cooker, try Box Breathing (inhale for 4, hold for 4, exhale for 4, hold for 4).

Why it helps: Deep breathing activates your parasympathetic nervous system, which calms you down and reduces stress.

4. Stretch

Tip: Even just 5-10 minutes of yoga in the morning - like gentle stretches or a few Sun Salutations - sets a positive tone for your day.

Why it helps: A quick morning practice energizes your body and mind, helping you tackle the day with more pep and less grumbling.

5. Control your cravings

Tip: Before heading to a holiday party, eat a healthy snack to avoid overindulging. When you're not starving, you can actually savor your food (and maybe pass on the third round of appetizers).

Why it helps: Mindful eating improves digestion and helps you stay in control of your cravings.

6. Combat road rage with warrior pose

Tip: After hours of driving and stop-and-go traffic, it's easy to feel stress building up. Instead of clutching the steering wheel, visualize yourself in Warrior Pose, standing strong and calm.

Why it helps: Even if you're not physically doing the pose, mentally tapping into Warrior Pose helps you feel grounded and ready to take on the chaos of holiday travel.

7. Playful balance

Tip: Make cooking fun by balancing while doing chores - try Tree Pose while waiting for the oven timer to go off.



By Gail Holness

Why it helps:

Playfulness breaks up the stress and turns everyday tasks into mini workouts. Who knew cooking could double as a yoga session?

8. Let go of control (and your anger)

Tip: The holidays don't need to be perfect. If things go off-track, take a breath and let others help. Trust that everything will work out - even if the mashed potatoes are lumpy.

Why it helps: Letting go of perfection reduces stress and helps you embrace what's going right.

9. Set boundaries - practice indifference

Tip: We all have that one relative who knows how to get under our skin. Practice being indifferent. You don't have to engage - just don't let them get to you.

Why it helps: Setting boundaries helps you keep your cool and preserve your energy.

10. Your energy matters

Tip: The energy you bring to a holiday gathering is the most powerful gift. Leave the negative stories at the door and just show up, open to whatever the moment brings.

Why it helps: Your energy is contagious! Make a conscious decision to spread joy and happiness into this wonder season.

LETTERS

Just breathe, we'll be ok

Dear editor,

In regards to Fay Martin's statement about "mourning for the death of life as we have known it," sounds like we are heading to "death row" because of the newly re-elected president of the U.S.

That, to me, is extreme. If Ms. Martin recalls, the newly re-elected president is the same president they had four years ago and no wars were going on while he was president.

Fast forward, under the current president we have major wars going on under him, cost of living is out of control, etc.

They lost the election and, unfortunately if you watch CNN, or The View, they spew unbelievable things that are not true and not going to happen. So, just breathe, we'll be OK, your life won't change, unless it's your choice.

Denise McCluskey
Haliburton

Thanks, community

Dear editor,

On behalf of Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS), our sincerest gratitude to our community for opening their hearts to help enhance so many lives.

The outpouring of generosity has been overwhelming and we are incredibly grateful. We are also thankful to the HHHS Foundation and their extraordinary success in the "Here for You in the Highlands" campaign.

A heartfelt thank you to those who welcomed us into your homes for fundraising events to make this dream a reality. And of course, a special thank you to our local media for helping us share our vision of keeping healthcare local. Together, we have made an incredible difference.

Veronica Nelson
HHHS President & CEO

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Yvonne Friend snapped some evening grosbeaks at the feeder.

HUMANS OF HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS

Welcomed with open arms to Wilberforce

By Susan Tromanhauser

With a 100-pound border collie by his side, it was only a matter of time before Matt Barnett would meet everyone in Wilberforce.

Barnett, 42, moved to Wilberforce three years ago with the hopes of realizing his dream of living in a small town. With Max, his dog, as a natural conversation starter, Barnett quickly met his new neighbours and soon felt like family in the close-knit community.

Growing up in Markham, a big city on the edge of country-life, Barnett always wanted to live in a small town. For Barnett, the city was "too loud, too simulating" and he knew when it was time to purchase his own home, he wanted it to be in a quiet place. Unfortunately, when his time to purchase arrived, it coincided with the arrival of COVID-19 and the resulting skyrocketing house prices.

He originally pictured himself in the Muskoka area, where Barnett and his family had a recreational trailer for most of his

life. The outlandish prices made Barnett turn to plan B; he drew a circle on his map indicating a two-and-a-half-hour driving radius from the GTA, where his father still lived. He scoured the real estate listings and came upon a suitable property in Wilberforce – a town he had never heard of before.

The property "checked all of the boxes, affordable and with a general store, a grocery store and a hardware store for the items any new homeowner would need. While the property is not on a lake, Barnett lives across the road from the lake, which offers him water access.

Barnett describes himself as a "digital nomad" and a "jack of digital trade" providing marketing services as well as graphic design and video editing. Through an introduction initiated by Max the dog, he has joined the Wilberforce Loop Troupe local theatre. While Barnett does emote on stage, he offers his talents behind the scenes by digitalizing the troupe's performances and uploading them into perpetuity onto YouTube.

Barnett also became involved in the Wilberforce FUNraising committee as part of the Gigantic Penny Raffle committee as well as provides his videographer services for Places for People.

While not participating in community service events, he enjoys the quiet he was looking for in his relocation. As an amateur in astrophotography, he is able to look at Venus and the stars beyond, unimpeded by the light smog of his previous urban life.

In the short time he has lived in Wilberforce, Barnett has developed more friendships than he previously had in Markham but has not left his urban friends behind. Through the internet, Barnett continues his regular Sunday evening appointment to play video games with his childhood friends spread across Ontario.

The only thing Barnett misses about city life is the ease of attaining fast food, but any hamburger craving is soon abated by taking his companion, Max, for a walk through his new community where he has been "welcomed with open arms."



Matt Barnett.

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Cottager 'shocked' dog shot with pellet gun

By Lisa Gervais

Moore Lake cottager Jake Moreau is still reeling after his dog, Bowie, was shot between the eyes with a pellet gun Nov. 24.

Moreau said the 100-pound snow white Husky mix is recovering from its injuries, but the family is shaken since their cottage, "is supposed to be a place to relax and unwind; a place of solitude where you can reduce stress levels."

Moreau said he had returned to the family cottage, and, as usual, Bowie came running to the car to greet him. Happy to be home, Moreau jumped out of the car and went to give the dog some attention when he saw something on his forehead, right between his eyes.

"You can imagine my surprise, shock and anger when I realized it was a pellet from a pellet gun."

He quickly took Bowie inside to show his father, John, and girlfriend, Lise, frantically asking where the dog had been that afternoon. They took pictures and performed an in-house surgery to remove the pellet.

"Thank goodness he is OK and is healing up well to this moment," Moreau added.

His father told him to call police. "The 911 operator was incredible. She kept us calm and took our problem very seriously. She did a great job. The police also showed up very quickly. The officer who responded was very thorough and sympathetic."

Moreau said they told police they thought there were only two people in the area that weekend. He said the family eliminated one as a suspect, and police went to talk to the other. He said they got a call about 40 minutes later from police, saying the person they were talking to had a pellet gun with the same calibre slugs as found in the dog.

Moreau said, "he admitted he was doing target shooting that afternoon, but did not shoot the animal.... The officer said the individual wanted us to come down so he



Moore Lake cottager Jake Moreau with girlfriend, Lise, and dogs, Java and Bowie. *Submitted*.

could apologize. Weird? If he did not see the dog and did not shoot it, why would he want to apologize? Why would a pellet be placed perfectly between the eyes of an animal if it was an accident?"

Moreau said the man did not admit to shooting the dog but his story "was not at all logical. If he was target-shooting at a target about six feet off the ground, how could he place a pellet between the eyes of my dog who stands about three feet off the ground? The only way this shot placement could have occurred is if the dog was looking directly at the muzzle of the gun. And he claimed he didn't see the animal.... a 100-pound snow white Husky mix against a green/brown

background."

Moreau said "they quickly realized the conversation was going nowhere." He said police asked if they wanted to press charges, "but warned us that while the evidence that the pellet was fired from his gun is present, it is very difficult to prove intent as he would likely keep the same story of it being an accident."

Moreau said, "I guess the real problem is that we have been going up to my cottage for over 20 years with our wonderful pets.

"Now, it feels like we have to constantly be aware of the dogs' whereabouts. It's really a terrible situation we are in now and we are not sure what our dogs did to deserve it." He

said the animals have great temperaments.

Haliburton Highlands OPP Const. Rob Adams confirmed no charges had been laid. He reminded people to follow all safety regulations, wear appropriate gear, and be aware of your surroundings when handling firearms - including pellet guns.

Moreau said they did want to thank the 911 dispatcher and police that responded to their call and took their situation seriously.

"With everything going on in the world today, people do not hear enough stories about the 99 per cent of good law enforcement members. They should be praised and we are very thankful for their help."

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Winter weather arrives with bang in County

By Mike Baker

Intense squalls this past weekend blanketed parts of Haliburton County with more than 25 inches of snow as the Highlands belatedly transformed into its usual winter wonderland.

Environment Canada issued a winter weather advisory for Central Ontario Nov. 29, with cottage country hit hardest. Parts of Muskoka were buried under about 40 inches of snow over the weekend, with the OPP closing Hwy. 11 connecting Orillia and Huntsville. Traffic was rerouted via Hwy. 400 and Hwy. 35.

Haliburton Highlands OPP had a busy time, responding to 10 minor and one serious collision over the weekend.

One person, a man in his 20s, was airlifted to a trauma centre with "life altering" injuries following a single-vehicle collision on Kennisis Lake Road Nov. 29. Police closed the area between Growler Lake Drive and Bitter Lake Road for much of the day, reopening around 9 p.m.

Const. Rob Adams with Haliburton Highlands OPP said near-freezing temperatures and heavy snowfall are key factors in winter collisions.

"Stay alert to winter conditions that can change quickly, placing extra demands on your vehicle and driving skill. Drive according to the weather conditions, your ability, and allow extra travel time," Adams said. "Conduct a maintenance check on... windshield wipers, washer fluid level, windshield defrost, and tire condition. Stock



Haliburton Highlands OPP said they responded to 11 collisions over the weekend. *Submitted.*

up on your winter survival kit [to keep] in your vehicle."

Algonquin Highlands and Minden Hills each declared significant weather events Nov. 29, essentially shutting down municipal services and facilities over the weekend. The Stanhope tree lighting ceremony, set for last

Friday, was cancelled.

Trillium Lakelands District School Board called a snow day, shutting down all County schools. An opening reception for the 'Safe and Well 2' exhibit happening at Rails End Gallery in Haliburton was rescheduled for Dec. 6.

Snow squalls battered northern parts of the County again Dec. 3. The system, moving in from Georgian Bay, dumped another 20 inches on Parry Sound, Huntsville, Bracebridge and Dorset area, according to Environment Canada.

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HKPR heads into 2025 with \$188K deficit

By Mike Baker

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit (HKPR) is projecting to finish the year with a \$188,467 budget shortfall, with medical officer of health Dr. Natalie Bocking admitting funding increases from the Ministry of Health, capped at one per cent for 2024, 2025 and 2026, aren't enough to maintain current service levels.

Addressing the HKPR board Nov. 21, Bocking said the health unit was prepared for a deficit and planned to use cash reserves to cover it.

The organization approved \$500,000 be taken from a cash surplus reserve fund, made up from monies received from municipal partners within the district, to balance the budget in 2024. Bocking said the in-year job vacancies, which HKPR didn't fill, and other operational efficiencies meant less than half that amount was used.

Looking ahead to 2025, Bocking said the health unit is projected to use \$297,089 to balance next year's budget. While HKPR has an agreement to merge with Peterborough Public Health (PPH) in 2025, it has yet to receive provincial approval, meaning the two health units had to submit separate budgets for the coming year.

Costs are slated at just under \$22.4 million, split into three streams – provincial and municipal cost sharing, which covers all basic health unit expenses; one-time money for select provincially-funded programs; and money coming in from other provincial grants.

HKPR is expecting to receive \$13.08 million from the province next year, a one per cent increase, \$2.89 million from Northumberland County, \$2.56 million from City of Kawartha Lakes, and \$666,396 from Haliburton County. Municipal contributions are up five per cent, Bocking said.

The health unit will receive another \$1,185,500 to support the Ontario Seniors Dental Program and \$247,000 from the Infection and Prevention Control (IPAC) hub.

Staff salary and benefits account for about 70 per cent of costs, with Bocking saying two new collective agreements resulted in a 3.65 per cent increase in wages from last year.

To cut costs last year, HKPR left four previously staffed positions vacant after existing staff left or retired. Those positions remain unfilled, and Bocking noted there are two additional vacancies this year.

"Gapping has an impact on services and programs... the budget we're presenting enables us to maintain our current level of service, but that's not necessarily the level of service we had two years ago, or five years ago," she said, noting decreased resources have impacted work in injury prevention and recreational activity promotion.

HKPR still has around \$1.4 million in the bank, though Bocking noted the interest on that is supporting the equivalent of two full-time staffers in next year's operating budget.

Bocking said using cash reserves for operational expenses "is not sustainable long-term."



Dr. Natalie Bocking of HKPR said budgetary increases in health care spending are not keeping up with inflation. *File.*

Kawartha Lakes board representative Dan Joyce called on the province to increase its spending in public health.

"In 2022, we had almost seven per cent inflation. Last year was about 3.5 per cent, this year is tracking at two-to-two-point-five per cent. We're seeing a common theme here and across all sectors – libraries, social services – no increases, or [minor] increases from the province. The rest is falling on property taxpayers," Joyce said.

"I'm sure we're not the only health unit with these problems. The province will have to open the tap at some point," he added.

Board chair David Marshall noted, with a merger between HKPR and PPH still preferred, the two parties may need to align on a collective strategic direction. He said PPH committed to using around \$1 million in reserve funds next year, while asking for a 12 per cent increase from municipal partners.

"If we look at a merger budget, we have to understand both organizations are running deficits. That will continue. If the two units merge, there's two very different strategies and leadership approaches at play... which, I think, is concerning," Marshall said.

HKPR spokesperson Ashley Beaulac confirmed Nov. 25 there has been no merger update from the Ministry of Health since the two parties applied last spring.

Meanwhile, following a presentation by Bocking to County council Nov. 27, warden Liz Daniels panned the provincial government for its lack of support. She noted they are giving the health unit one per cent in funding over three years, but Haliburton County is faced with five per cent increases year over year. "That is just not right."

Health unit discusses risk of bird flu after confirmed case in B.C.

By Mike Baker

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit (HKPR) is monitoring after the first human case of highly pathogenic avian influenza (bird flu) was confirmed in British Columbia recently.

Dr. Natalie Bocking, HKPR medical officer of health, said a Richmond, B.C. teenager was diagnosed with the virus in early November. He was admitted to the

province's specialist children's hospital, where he remains in critical, but stable condition.

Concerns around bird flu have heightened in recent years, with the virus killing millions of poultry across North America since 2020. The most recent strain, H5N1 can be particularly nasty, Bocking notes, with it mainly targeting the respiratory tract. It can also cause gastrointestinal and central nervous system issues.

While human-to-human transmission is rare, Bocking advised people to avoid handling dead or sick birds. She said there's been an increase in the virus over the past two years, most significantly to cattle. Bocking said the affliction has also taken hold with pigs.

"When you see a basic increased transmission, then an increased transmission within mammals, then from mammal to humans, that puts the virus at

an advantage to continue to continue to mutate and potentially develop into a strain that could be passed on from human to human," Bocking said.

Last year, HKPR confirmed one local case, in a flock of infected poultry, but there haven't been any concerns since. The last fatal case of bird flu reported in Canada was in Alberta in 2014.

Privatization 'death knell' to healthcare

By Mike Baker

The Ontario Council of Hospital Unions (OCHU-CUPE) made a pit stop in Haliburton County last week armed with a 20-foot replica of the mythical Trojan Horse, which figurehead Michael Hurley said symbolizes the danger privatization poses to public healthcare.

Demonstrations were held in Minden and Haliburton Nov. 28, with Hurley, Ontario Health Coalition executive director Natalie Mehra, County-based activist Bonnie Roe, and NDP MPP from Spadina-Fort York Chris Glover each sending messages to the provincial government.

The voices were united – they want to see the Minden ER reopened.

"We're so inspired by your fight in this community to keep services operating here. We're all stricken by the Minden closure," Hurley said. "This government, despite Ontario having an aging and growing population, refuses to invest in hospitals, long-term care, or home care."

He said Minden was "ground zero" for hospital closures and service reductions provincially. A CBC report this week revealed at least 38 Ontario hospitals with emergency rooms or urgent care centres have experienced closures since 2021 – about one in five of 176 publicly-funded facilities.

The issue is most crippling in rural areas – the Clinton and Chesley hospitals have each been partially closed or seen reduced hours for 335 days this year, while the Durham

hospital has been impacted 280 days.

Hurley said the Ontario government is starving the public health care system, spending \$1.7 billion less than was budgeted last year.

In May 2023, the Ford government passed a bill allowing private clinics to conduct more surgeries – Hurley said he knows people who grew tired of waiting for surgery through OHIP so went private, which is often more than double the price.

He quoted recent statistics released by the Canadian Medical Association Journal, which said access to cataract surgery – the most common operation carried out in Ontario – had increased 22 per cent for the wealthy but declined 9 per cent for the middle class and those on low-income.

"That's what happens when you introduce a private system – money walks to the head of the line," Hurley said. "We want a system that treats people based on need, not income."

Toronto-based Glover said he's been advocating for the reopening of the Minden ER for more than a year.

"I've got many good friends who live in this community – in May 2023, one of them called to say he had just been in a head-on accident in Moore Falls and they had been rushed to the Minden ER. He said being so close to a hospital saved his wife's life. Then in the next sentence he told me that hospital was being shut down," said Glover. "I was absolutely shocked. It made no sense then and it still makes no sense now."



County residents joined representatives from OCHU-CUPE and the Ontario Health Coalition fighting against privatization at a public rally in Minden Nov. 28. Photo by Mike Baker.

He told about a man who passed away from cardiac arrest last year while en route to the Haliburton hospital, and a young girl who got a fishhook caught in her eye a stone's throw from the old Minden facility, but had to endure a 25-minute trip to Haliburton before having it removed.

"There are tens of thousands of these stories across the province, of people suffering because of the privatization of our health care system," Glover said.

Hurley said the 'Trojan Horse tour' included 65 communities and is wrapping up this week. The horse was built 20 years

ago when the union opposed cuts to public health, though Hurley believes the situation is more serious today.

"The horse represents a gift that you should be wary of because it's a tainted gift, a poisoned apple," Hurley said, referencing privatization. "It's no solution to our problems. Costs will go up, it will divide access to care based on income, and it will draw staff away when we're already struggling to staff our public system."

"Privatization is a cancer. It's the death knell to public health," Hurley added.

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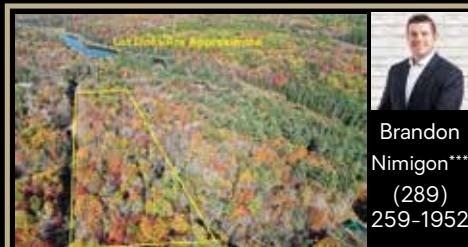
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Lots of laughs

The Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton was transformed into a carnival scene last week as students from the Hal High drama class performed the cult classic *Circus Olympus*. The comedy was directed locally by Victoria Beynon, with assistance from Haliburton Highlands Secondary School drama teacher Meghan Mardus. "Many of the students were acting and working in their first full production, learning the ins and outs of theatre, and some taking on multiple roles," Mardus said. Together, the class came together to put their own spin on Greek mythology, with the likes of Zeus, Athena, Perseus and Hades all featured.

Far left: Ishy the narrator, played by Keira Howard, engages with the crowd. Top: Persephone and the flower, played by Gracie Griffith and Alex Humphrey. Above: Anthony Belmonte, Daniel Wheeler, and Alex Humphrey portray three Ancient Greek gods. Left: King Polydectes and Perseus, played by Tory Byrnes and Ethan Durepos. Photos by Justin Belanger.

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Township of Algonquin Highlands

NOTICE
Fees and Charges

NOTICE is hereby provided that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands intends to consider amending Comprehensive Fees and Charges By-Law at its regular meeting to be held on Thursday, December 12, 2024.

The meeting will be held in the Council Chambers located at 1123 North Shore Road, Algonquin Highlands, ON.

Dated: December 4, 2024
Dawn Newhook
Clerk/Deputy CAO
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Rd.
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
T: 705-489-2379 Ext. 333
E: dnewhook@algonquinhighlands.ca



Warmth for all

The annual Highlands Christmas Shindig injected some festive cheer into the Haliburton Legion Nov. 30, with the successful fundraising event bringing in \$51,335 for Fuel for Warmth. The County-based non-profit raises money to provide anyone in Haliburton County with emergency heating through winter. Organizer Drew Allen said, with costs up across the board, more people are utilizing services than ever before. This year's dinner and dance party featured music from Ragged Company. Donations are still being accepted, visit fuelforwarmth.com for more information.

Above: Ragged Company's Karen and Mic Frybort stole the show at this year's Highlands Christmas Shindig. Top right: Fun times were had by all on the dance floor, including Don Critchley. Right: Two Christmas VIPs keep the show running and raffle sales coming in. Photos by Justin Belanger.



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After spending days with excruciating back pain, Owen decided it was time to visit the Haliburton Highlands Health Services emergency department. This set the wheels in motion for a three week journey he did not expect to take this September. He shared his grateful patient story with us.

Owen and the emergency doctor discussed the pain ... was it a kidney stone, bladder stone, gallbladder? An ultrasound revealed a fuzzy lump in the bladder. Something that needed further investigation. Owen was sent home with pain medication, an appointment for another ultrasound and emphatically urged to see a urologist. Owen's family doctor stepped in with a urology referral, a visit to a cystoscopy

clinic and finally surgery. It was determined that the mass was a cancerous tumour. Thankfully, the cancer cells are low grade and Owen's prognosis is good.

In his own words, he is thankful for "that little ER ultrasound" otherwise his bladder cancer would have gone undetected. Owen has committed to making an annual donation to the HHHS Foundation to show how grateful he and his family are for the timely, exceptional care he received. With upgraded tools and equipment, doctors in Haliburton County can make better and faster diagnoses for people like Owen.



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Brooksong goes virtual

By Mike Baker

Eighteen months ago, Toronto resident Laura Hughes was navigating a recent Stage 2 cancer diagnosis feeling scared, alone, and unsure about what to do next. Then she connected with Brooksong Retreat and Cancer Support Centre in Haliburton.

The facility, located on the grounds of Abbey Gardens, offers a variety of in-person and virtual retreats and programs creating healing spaces and a sense of community for people affected by cancer.

Hughes was a year into her diagnosis when a friend told her about Brooksong. She reached out and signed up for a new online offering, figuring at worst she might learn something new. Instead, the results were life-changing, Hughes said.

"I felt so special, heard, understood, and, most of all, included. I had been home for a really long time and finally I had something to look forward to other than appointments," Hughes said.

She was one of the first participants in a new six-week program titled 'Re-Shaping Our Cancer Stories'. Through live online gatherings, video segments and supporting materials, participants integrate the natural world, art making, yoga, sound therapy, and discussion circles as they travel through their stories to chart a fresh path forward.

Hughes later took part in Brooksong's 'Take a Thread and Follow It' course, which, over the course of seven weeks, used simple stitching and other art-making mediums to find ways to mend, repair and renew.

Both offerings were completely free, with Brooksong funding the initiatives through a \$122,800 Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) grant received in 2022. Executive director, Barb Smith-Morrison said the money has allowed the retreat to provide virtual support to an additional 100 cancer patients this year.

The programs are led by trained facilitators like Fay Wilkinson and Ken Little, who both spoke during a virtual recognition event Nov. 29. Smith-Morrison noted the OTF money also supported the training of 12 facilitators.

Wilkinson is a registered expressive arts practitioner, who said she uses stitching to help patients re-thread pieces of their life post-diagnosis. Little said he uses sport, movement and sound to inspire people.

It had been a year of torment for Amber Young before she found salvation through Brooksong. Diagnosed with Non-Hodgkins lymphoma in 2023, Young had a five-inch tumour growing on her spinal cord with cancer also taking residence in her spleen, around her lungs and in her bones.



Ken Little a program facilitator at Brooksong Retreat and Cancer Support Centre. *Submitted*.

The Ottawa resident was referred to Brooksong through a friend, who had participated in a retreat following a breast cancer diagnosis a couple of years ago.

"Cancer changes your life... one of the biggest things through this program is that, after a year-and-a-half of my life being completely different, I felt like I landed in a room with people who actually saw me and understood what I was going through," Young said. "Thank you to Brooksong and OTF – the programs being virtual meant I could take part."

Smith-Morrison said the new virtual offerings have been a great addition to Brooksong's programming, thanking OTF for its support.

"Not only has this increased the number of people we're able to support, but it's also allowed us to develop a new accessible website, create a series of videos to tell the story and impact of our cancer support mission, strengthen our internet capabilities and make our organization more accessible virtually," Smith-Morrison said. "This is vitally important as our waitlist for our unique cancer support offerings continues to grow."

The waitlist now sits at more than 200 people.

A third online offering 'Healing Circles' will start soon, connecting cancer patients and caregivers monthly via Zoom to share stories and foster connection.

For more information, visit brooksong.ca.

Thurs. Dec. 12

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U9 LL Minden Pharmasave

The Highland Storm U9 Local League Minden Pharmasave are two months into its season, with six half-ice games played so far against Brock Township Wild Red, Millbrook Stars White, Manvers Mustangs, Woodville Hurricanes, Mariposa Lightning, and Brock Township Wild White.

All contests were spirited affairs, with Storm players trying hard and building good team play. With no dedicated goaltender, three positional players tried their hand in goal for two games each. Hudson Lynch, Cedar Brown and Easton Sperrino gave it their all playing an unfamiliar role.

Goals through the first stretch of the season have been tallied by Hudson Lynch, Ella Sperrino, James Seed, Arlo Green and, Cedar Brown. Strong play has been shown by Elliot and Jackson Cybulski, Presley-Anne Hargreave, and Asher Simms.

In practice, the team has been working on skating skills – perfecting stopping crossovers and forward-to-backward pivots. Drills frequently focus on passing and teaching players to keep their head up so they can always see their teammates.

In the second half of the season, the team will be moving to full-ice games, which will bring rules like icing and offside that players will need to learn. *Submitted.*



U9 LL Sharp Electric

The Highland Storm U9 Local League Sharp Electric team has been off to an amazing start this season. All players are growing their skills and developing their teamwork. Coaches have seen some great improvement on passing and working together to set up teammates for scoring opportunities. Goaltending has been on fire, almost melting the ice. Opposing teams have approached with lots of praise for the team. The coaching staff is excited to see this team grow and continue improving throughout the rest of the season. *Submitted.*



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Huskies head coach Ryan Ramsay said this weekend's fixtures are must-win for his young team. *Photo by Justin Belanger.*

Pivotal period ahead for title-chasing Huskies

By Mike Baker

Haliburton County Huskies head coach Ryan Ramsay has been preparing his young charges for a pivotal week as the Ontario Junior Hockey League season kicks into overdrive ahead of the holidays.

The team plays six games before breaking for Christmas Dec. 22, with two top-of-the-table clashes coming up on the road this weekend. The Huskies will be in the city Friday to take on the St. Michael's Buzzers before travelling to Wellington on Sunday for a tilt with the Dukes.

"These are two or three very important weeks that, really, will define our season. We lost against St. Mike's last time we went there and they're performing well right now. Wellington is right in front of us, so these are two massive games," Ramsay said.

"We can't lose both – we'd like to win both and start separating ourselves from the pack a little. The top four teams typically start breaking away a bit, so this will show us what kind of hockey team we have," he added.

The Huskies sit fifth in the OJHL East Conference with a record of 20-8-0, one point back of the Buzzers and two behind the Dukes, though with games in hand.

Ramsay said his side will go into the games full of confidence after knocking off the Pickering Panthers and Aurora Tigers last weekend. The Huskies are now riding a three-game winning streak.

They had to do things the hard way against the Panthers and Tigers – with starting netminder Carter Nadon unavailable and backup Corbin Votary being traded to the Maritime Junior Hockey League, the Huskies called on 17-year-old rookie Daniel Giusti, an affiliate player, to man the goal.

Giusti stood up to the pressure – giving up only two goals total as the Huskies roared to a 4-1 win in Pickering Nov. 29 before besting Aurora 2-1 in double overtime on home ice Nov. 30. The young netminder recorded a 0.95 goals against average and .966 save percentage.

"He was really impressive playing back-to-back, I thought he played great. He's a smaller guy but he moves really well," Ramsay said. "If you're only giving up one goal per game you're going to win a lot of hockey games, and he

gave us a great chance to do that."

The Huskies are in the market for another goaltender who can challenge Nadon, with Ramsay saying he hopes to have something in place for next weekend's lone game, when the Huskies host Pickering Dec. 14.

For this weekend, Ramsay confirmed co-captain Ty Petrou will be missing – he's week-to-week with an upper body injury, but aside from that it's a clean bill of health for the team.

"We've got some really good depth through our lineup now, so we just need some different guys to step up," the coach said.

Important wins

The Huskies rocked up in Pickering having recorded one win from their previous four games – and it looked like being more of the same in the early goings.

Owen Dunning broke the deadline with a powerplay marker 4:34 into the first and while it would have been easy for the Huskies to let their heads drop, the goal seemed to inspire them. Deandres De Jesus tied things a minute later, assisted by William Stewart and Peter Saroglou, before Ryder Dagenais potted a pair, at 10:40 and 13:29, to put the blue and white in a commanding position.

Isaac Larmand added a late empty netter for his seventh goal of the season, assisted by Camron Hankai and Nathan Poole.

Saturday's match-up at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena was a tense one – both teams went scoreless in the first despite firing a combined 24 shots. Aurora got on the board first, Cayden Smith scoring at 16:28 of the second, assisted by former Husky Antonio Cerqua.

Hankai levelled 8:04 into the final frame for his second point of the weekend, teed up by Poole and co-captain Raine Nadeau.

The 425 fans in attendance were treated to some extra action – though neither side could get the go-ahead goal during the first overtime period, Poole rifled in the winner 1:34 in second OT for his 12th goal of the season.

The Huskies will be back at home Dec. 14 when the team hosts the Panthers. Puck drop is set for 4 p.m.

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EVENTS

Dec. 5, 5 to 8 p.m.

Calling all ladies - SIRCH Community Services is hosting its annual artisan market alongside the Haliburton BIA ladies shopping night. Featuring 16 talented local artisans specializing in jewelry making, fiber art, woodwork, beeswax products, birdhouses, stained glass and more at the SIRCH Bistro. For more information, call 705-457-1742.

Dec. 6, 11 a.m.

A warm invitation from Minden Bible Church to our 'Merry and Bright' Christmas luncheon, held at Highland Hills United Church (21 Newcastle St.) Soup, sandwiches, dessert, tea and coffee will be available. Luncheon is by donation.

Dec. 6, 6 p.m.

Join the Township of Algonquin Highlands in celebrating the festive season with a community Christmas tree-lighting at the Oxtongue Lake Community Centre on Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. There will be Christmas carols, hot chocolate, and a visit from Santa Claus. Bring your own mug.

Dec. 7, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Aging Together as Community Haliburton Highlands is hosting a 'Movement is Good Medicine' social at Haliburton United Church. Keynote speaker is Meghan Cox, owner and trainer at Just Movement Fitness, who will discuss how movement keeps us healthy. Learn about chair exercises, Nordic pole walking and more. Dinner of turkey pot pie, salad and dessert will be provided. Register at attachevents@gmail.com or by contacting Connie Wootton at 705-457-7215. Will also be available via Zoom.

Dec. 7, 7 to 9 p.m.

Christmas Open House at the Wilberforce Red Cross Outpost (2314 Loop Rd.). Join us for good cheer, seasonal goodies, and hot apple cider. For more information, contact Barb Schofield at 705-448-2598, or email wilberforcebarb@yahoo.ca.

Dec. 8, 3 p.m.

Highlands Wind Symphony 2024 Holiday Concert at Lakeside Church in Haliburton. Also featuring the Highlands Swing Band, with vocalist Jerelyn Craden. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$30 for families, available at Masters Bookstore in Haliburton or Minden Pharmasave. Call 705-457-0455 for more information.

Dec. 10

The students from the high school who are heading to Europe in April, are holding a fundraiser. There will be a European Christmas market from 4 - 8 p.m. They are looking for vendors. Tables are \$20

to rent. Then there is a three-course dinner. It's a traditional Christmas turkey dinner but will feature an item from each of the four countries they're traveling to: England, France, Switzerland and Germany. Tickets are \$50 and available on the school website or cash at the office.

Dec. 11, 7 to 9 p.m.

The Speaker Series welcomes Paul Mills to the HHOA fish hatchery, where he will detail his career in the Canadian music industry - where he produced over 200 albums from some of the most well-known artists in the country including Stan Rogers, Sharon, Lois and Bram, Ron Hynes, and John Allan Cameron. Admission is \$15, payable at the door or online at tellingourstories.company.site. To pre-register, contact Barrie Martin at 705-457-7557 or barrieinthehighlands@gmail.com.

Dec. 12, 4:15 p.m. and 7:15 p.m.

Those Other Movies presents *My Penguin Friend* at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. Tickets \$10 cash at the door. Other winter dates, Jan. 9 *The Great Escaper*; Feb. 13 *We Live in Time*; March 13 TBD, reserve your ticket for Doc(k) Days, April 5, 2025 at thoseothermovies.com

Dec. 14, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Haliburton School of Art + Design is hosting its annual 'Wrap It Up' student exhibition, featuring the work of fall 2024 certificate students from the painting and drawing, fibre arts, ceramics and artist blacksmith programs, in the Great Hall at HSAD, 297 College Dr. Haliburton.

Dec. 15, noon to 3 p.m.

Aging Together as Community Haliburton Highlands is hosting an LGBTQ+ and seniors and allies festive celebration lunch at SIRCH Bistro in Haliburton. Register for this free event at peterquinton@gmail.com.

Arts Council Haliburton Highlands is welcoming submissions of stories for their joint project with CanoeFM: Story Circle. Appropriate-for-broadcast stories of less than 1,500 words will be considered. Submit ideas for review to storycircle22@gmail.com.

**Have a non-profit event you want advertised?
email mike@thehighlander.ca.**

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ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129

Haliburton weekly activities

Mondays: Bridge at 1 p.m. in the Schofield Room. Youth darts league starting soon, for ages 10 to 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the clubroom. All are welcome.

Tuesdays: League darts starting at 7 p.m. Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30-9 p.m.

Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, main hall. Bingo is back. There's a \$1,000 jackpot on the first Wednesday of the month.

Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. & ladies auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.

Fridays: Meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets \$2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards.

Saturdays: 50/50 draw 4 p.m. Tickets \$1 each, available in the Clubroom.

Clubroom hours: Mon closed, Tues 3-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m. & Sat 3-6 p.m.

Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for rental information call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com/facility-rentals

The Legion's mandate is to help veterans, assist with their mental and physical health and social wellbeing, provide a feeling of togetherness and combat isolation. All are welcome to attend our events.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624

Wilberforce

Mon: 7 to 10 p.m.

Wed: 2 to 6 p.m.

Thurs: 2 to 6 p.m.

Fri: 2 to 11 p.m.

Sat: 2 to 9 p.m.

Sun: Special events only

Tree of Warmth: the legion is accepting donations of new mittens, scarves and hats. The donations will be provided to students at Wilberforce and Cardiff elementary schools.

Darts on Dec. 9, 16, 23, and 30. From 7 to 10

p.m. Also Dec. 11 and 18 from 2 to 7 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person.

Indoor cornhole on Dec. 5, 12, and 19 at 7 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person.

Wings and jam session Dec. 6 and 20, from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person.

Ladies Auxiliary breakfast Dec. 8 from 9 to 11 a.m. Cost is \$10 per person.

Seniors 55+ Christmas party Dec. 13. Call Denice Butler at 705-448-8865 to book.

Fish and chips Dec. 13 from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person.

Meat draw on Dec. 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 3 p.m.

New Year's Eve dance party Dec. 31. Cost is \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. Food provided. Spot dance prizes available. From 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D.

Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

Monday - Thursday: Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' Tuesday.

Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.

Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.

Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541

Weekly activities:

Karaoke: call for dates
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m. Rug Hookers every second week.
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 519

Coboconk

Second Monday of the month: General meeting - 7:30 p.m.

Tuesdays: Euchre - 1 p.m. Open Darts - 7 p.m.

First Wednesday of the month: Big Buck Bid Euchre from 11 a.m. \$15 per person.

Saturdays: Meat Roll at 3 p.m.

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SANTA CLAUS PARADE THANK YOU TO ALL THESE GREAT FOLKS

Our friends in Dysart et al:

Andrea Mueller, Rob Camelon, Dave Coulter, Hailey Cole, Abby Roberts
Fire Dept. Volunteers, O.P.P. and EMS

Starters:

Bill Frost, Brayden Frost, Kristie Frost, Jaylin Frost, Bob Amos,
Jesse Lefebvre, Bill Hodges

Traffic and Parking Controllers:

Matt Oullette, Irv Handler, Brian Monaghan, Bob Park, Tim Nicholls,
Will Craftchik, Jaylin Frost Fowler Construction and Tony for the pylons
Our Friends at Haliburton United Church, Sunbelt Rentals

Many Thanks to all those who entered with their lights, music and
WONDERFULLY DECORATED FLOATS, ENTHUSIASTIC DANCERS AND
WALKERS AND OUR EQUINE FRIENDS

Those of the Santa Float:

David & Betty Mills, Gerald Hadley, James Lawr, Marilyn Frost,
Paul Sheardown, Rosemarie Colbourne, Renee Griffith, Bill Frost, and
Emmerson Lumber folks Bob Amos, Bill Hodges, Jesse Lefebvre

REMEMBERING:

Ken Noble, Jim Meadows, Ernie Winterburn and Sam Charlton

Thanks to Andy Salvatori and Family for donating the tree and to Dysart Fire
volunteers and Emmerson Lumber for felling and erecting the
tree. Anthony and Julianne VanLieshout for the location and hydro
for the tree Gord and Kathryn Kidd for the Carol Sing,
CanoeFM & MooseFM, Echo & Highlander for all your
help!



Thanks to those donors for helping with the parade cost
And anyone I may have missed !

From Jim Frost, Parade Coordinator and Downtown
Haliburton BIA and Haliburton & District Lions Club
SEE YOU NEXT YEAR

COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS

PUBLIC SURVEY

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public survey to better understand
the health needs of our region. Your input will play a
vital role in improving healthcare for everyone in our
community. By sharing your experiences, you can help us
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Public Comment Invited: Proposed Levels of Service for Asset Management Plan

The Municipality of Highlands East is seeking your input on the proposed levels of service for our Asset Management Plan. Your input is crucial for future planning and asset management. This brief (5 min) survey provides you with an opportunity to share your thoughts on our strengths and weaknesses regarding our priorities for the coming years.

Your feedback is important to us!

How to Participate:

- Online:** Visit our website at www.highlandseast.ca to review the proposed levels of service and complete the online survey.
- In Person:** You can also visit the Municipal Office located in Wilberforce (2249 Loop Rd.) to review the documents and complete the survey.
Paper copies are available upon request.

Deadline for Comments: Friday, December 20, 2024

The information gathered will be used to develop the proposed levels of service for the municipal asset management plan in accordance with Ontario Regulation 588/17, which mandates municipalities to establish a strategic asset management policy and maintain an asset management plan for core and non-core municipal infrastructure assets.

Participation in this survey is voluntary and anonymous. Information gathered as part of this survey process is collected under the authority of section 28 of the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (MFIPPA). Information collected within this survey will be shared with the Municipality's Asset Management Consultant, PSD Citywide, for purposes of developing proposed levels of service within the 2025 asset management plan update in accordance with **O. Reg 588/17**.

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amvic
building system

The image features the Haliburton Solar + Wind logo in the top left corner, which includes a stylized green house with a plug and leaves, and the text 'Haliburton Solar + Wind'. The main visual is a dark pickup truck with a solar panel mounted on its roof, parked in a field of large-scale solar panels under a clear blue sky.

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A stack of cut and split firewood, showing various sizes and shapes of logs.

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A red-tinted photograph of a fire burning in a fireplace, with logs and flames visible, serving as the background for the Nesbitt's Firewood advertisement.

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- AND MORE!

The logo for Chumbley Electric features a cartoon character of a blue screw with a face, arms, and legs. The character is holding a pair of pliers. To the right of the character, the word "CHUMBLEY" is written in large, bold, blue, block letters. Below "CHUMBLEY", the word "electric" is written in a smaller, blue, lowercase, sans-serif font.

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SOLUTIONS FOR DECEMBER 5

1	S	2	C	3	A	4	M	5	S	6	A	7	M	8	B	9	L	10	E	11	F	12	U	13	M
14	A	15	L	16	L	17	A	18	Y	19	L	20	O	21	U	22	I	23	S	24	I	25	S	26	A
27	S	28	I	29	I	30	L	31	K	32	E	33	O	34	E	35	A	36	R	37	D	38	O	39	R
40	H	41	O	42	W	43	E	44	W	45	G	46	D	47	T	48	E	49	T	50	O	51	R	52	T
53	A	54	P	55	R	56	O	57	N	58	R	59	O	60	N	61	P	62	T	63	O	64	P	65	A
66	T	67	O	68	A	69	L	70	Y	71	R	72	E	73	L	74	A	75	T	76	L	77	A	78	S
79	T	80	H	81	Y	82	Y	83	Y	84	A	85	T	86	L	87	A	88	S	89	L	90	A	91	S

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

1	M	2	O	3	W	4	E	5	D	6	C	7	A	8	R	9	A	10	M	11	B	12	A		
13	A	14	L	15	A	16	M	17	B	18	H	19	U	20	S	21	K	22	I	23	E	24	S	25	G
26	C	27	I	28	V	29	I	30	L	31	S	32	E	33	R	34	A	35	P	36	V	37	A	38	T
39	R	40	A	41	V	42	E	43	E	44	S	45	C	46	R	47	E	48	T	49	R	50	I	51	D
52	A	53	R	54	E	55	A	56	O	57	M	58	A	59	N	60	N	61	O	62	N	63	O	64	R
65	T	66	O	67	P	68	A	69	L	70	R	71	C	72	E	73	L	74	L	75	O	76	A	77	S
78	T	79	H	80	Y	81	A	82	Y	83	A	84	T	85	L	86	A	87	S	88	L	89	A	90	S

3	8	7	9	2	4	6	5	1
4	6	2	8	1	5	9	7	3
5	1	9	6	7	3	4	2	8
6	9	3	5	8	7	2	1	4
8	7	4	1	3	2	5	6	9
2	3	8	7	5	9	1	4	6
9	4	1	2	6	8	7	3	5
7	5	6	3	4	1	8	9	2

OBITUARIES



In Loving Memory of
Ronald Martin Clark

Passed away peacefully at Extendicare, Lakefield on Saturday, November 30, 2024, with his family by his side, at the age of 90.

Beloved husband of the late Kathleen (nee Barlow) (1997) and the late Nerina Rogers (nee Aishford) (2019). Loving father of Philip (Lori-Ann), Andrew (deceased-2024), Eileen (Bill) Plowman, and Laura (Terry) Robertson. Dear grandpa of Megan, Cole and Dalton. Predeceased by his sister Lucille Brooks. Ron will be greatly missed by many nieces, nephews, family and friends.

A Memorial Service to Celebrate Ron's Life will be held at the Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St., Minden on Saturday, December 7, 2024 at 1:00 pm. Reception to follow at the church (downstairs). Cremation has taken place.

Memorial Donations to the Brocksong Retreat and Cancer Support Centre or the Walkabout Farm Therapeutic Riding Association Inc. would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com



In Loving Memory of
Stanley "Neil" Reynolds

Passed away peacefully at home in Tyrone, Ontario on Thursday, November 28, 2024, at the age of 78.

Loving husband Sheila (nee Brice). Survived by his brothers-in law Merrill Barry, Peter (Barb) Brice, Douglas (Carla) Brice and his sisters-in-law Wanda Reynolds, Mary-Jane Reynolds, Elsie Reynolds, Kathryn (Doug) Doede, predeceased by Frances (Victor) Woods, Barbara (Wilfred) Barry, James Reynolds, William (Blythe) Reynolds, Joy (Ken) Hall, Gloria (Glen) Sisson, Benjamin Reynolds, Robert Reynolds and Merrie Barry. Fondly remembered by his many nieces and nephews, extended family and friends.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden K0M 2K0 on Thursday from 4:00 until 6:00 pm. A Celebration of Neil's Life will be held on Friday, December 6, 2024 at 11:00 am. Reception to follow at the Monk-Cray Family Centre at the funeral home. Spring Interment at St. Peter's Cemetery, Maple Lake.

Memorial Donations to the Salvation Army or Hearth Place Cancer Support Centre, Oshawa would be appreciated by the family.



www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

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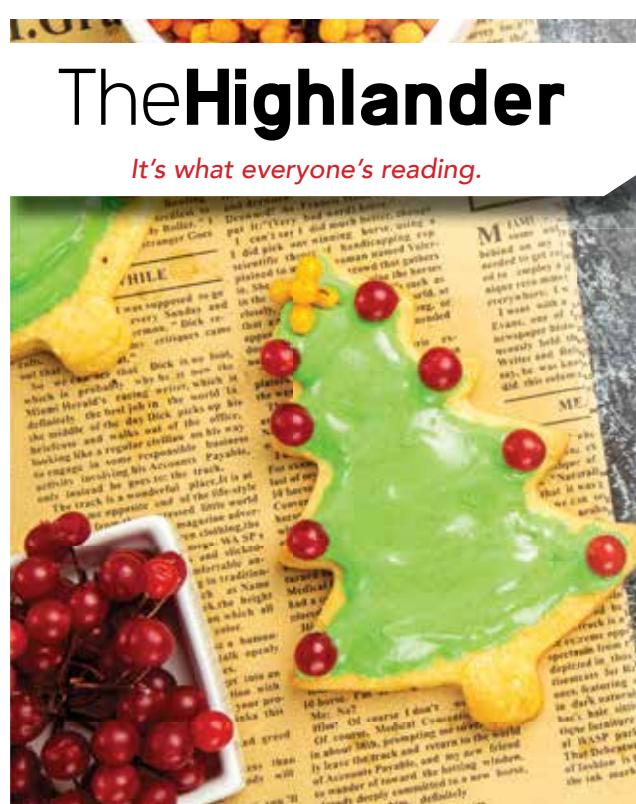
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EVENTS

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All about Ice Racing in Minden - FREE Webinar Monday, December 9, 7:00pm
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83123376398>
For more information email: iceracedir@casc.on.ca



The Highlander will not be publishing

Dec 26, 2024 and Jan 2, 2025,

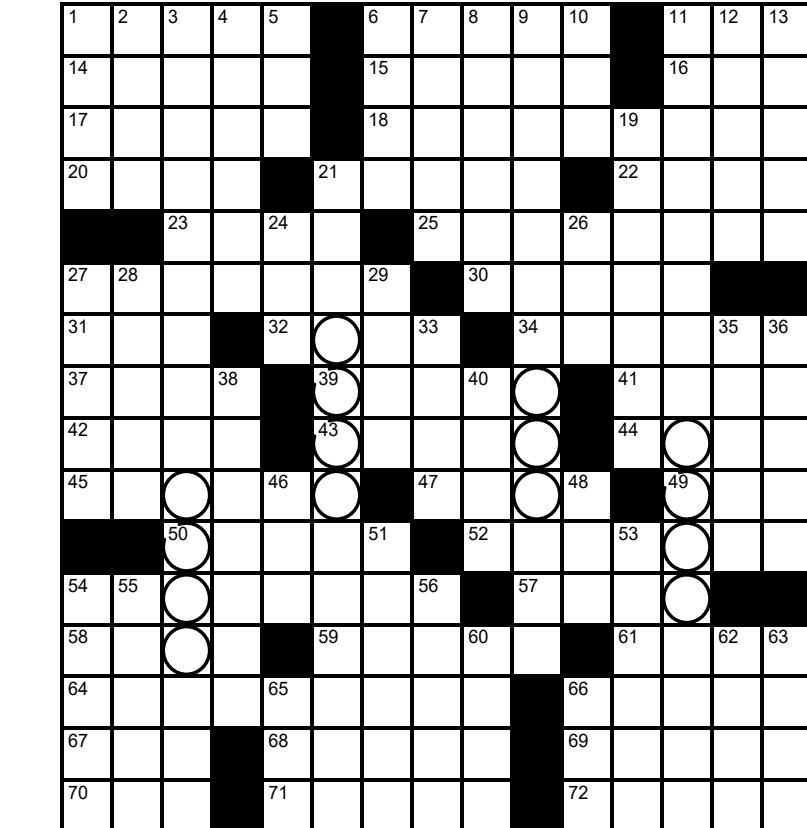
The Highlander Staff are taking a well earned break. Our office will be closed

Dec 20, 2024 – Jan 6, 2025.

Thank you to all of our advertisers and supporters, we hope you have a festive Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

The Water is Risingby Barbara Olson
©ClassiCanadian Crosswords**Across**

1 Ripoffs
6 A walk in the park, maybe
11 Fairy tale "fo" follower
14 Calm, as fears
15 "The Lip" Armstrong
16 "... rose ___ rose": Gertrude Stein
17 Jockey's wear
18 Resident in the Maritimes
20 "Mr. Hockey" Gordie
21 "You're gonna ___!" (threat to a kid)
22 Fix a post
23 ___-Eaters (shoe inserts)
25 Woe-is-me sentiment
27 Protected from kitchen splatter, in a way
30 "M*A*S*H" episode, today
31 Mu goo gai pan pan
32 Ticked (off)
34 Brand of bath beads
37 High IBU brews
39 Just deserts, in Buddhism
41 "Scarborough Fair" spice
42 Helsinki citizen
43 Shock rocker Cooper
44 "Vogue" competitor
45 Ultimate goal
47 Tijuana tender
49 Lexicon covering 600-1150 A.D.
50 Salt-___ (all-woman rappers)
52 Fatherly figures?
54 "Quit it!"
57 Gravelly voice
58 Be a boozer
59 Zoning units
61 Flapjacks chain
64 Animal on a toonie
66 Love to bits
67 One-time bridge
68 Yo-Yo's strings
69 Cantaloupe or casaba
70 Your, of yore
71 He shouldered the world
72 "Tell them ___ my regards"

**Down**

1 Window frame
2 TV commercial award
3 It makes Jack a dull boy
4 Manage, despite all
5 The "S" of iOS: Abbr.
6 Away from a sea squall
7 Some zoo barriers
8 Having a longer to-do list
9 "Pizza! Pizza!" pizza place
10 Language suffix, often
11 Slyly circumventing the law
12 "___ wisely"
13 McSorley or McFly
19 Turn one's stomach
21 Omicron origin
24 Prov. north of Michigan
26 Monk's title
27 The Farmer in the Dell took one
28 Drop by for a quick hi

29 Give a hand?
33 Utter dullard
35 Made a rude observation?
36 They're not an option
38 Flat pod veggie
40 Ran the show
46 Allow
48 ___ Mae Brown (Whoopi's "Ghost" role)
51 Remote battery, often
53 Backs of records
54 Mid-Mar. honouree
55 Exchange for a night fairy's money
56 Singing syllables
60 Aphrodite's loving son
62 "Straight ___ the rocks?"
63 ___ d'oreille (hanging earring, in French)
65 Co. with a phonograph logo
66 Friend, to Franc

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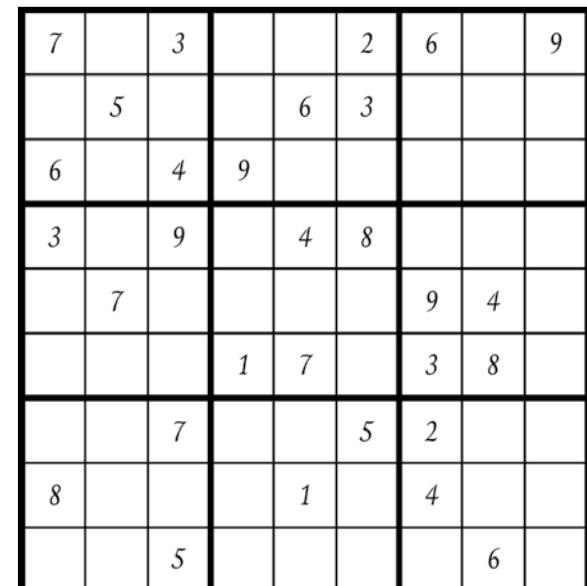
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5X BED 3X BATH MLS 40638549

EAGLE LAKE
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\$679,900



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MLS 40634507

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MLS 40645925

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